

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 DHA-02

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 /092 W  
----- 077822

R 061541Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1725

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMCONSUL PORT SAID

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ELAP EG

SUBJ: LABOR DISTURBANCE IN DAMIETTA

REF: CAIRO 4140

1. MFA OFFICIAL WHO RECENTLY VISITED HOME VILLAGE  
NEAR DAMIETTA TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 5 THAT LABOR DISTURBANCES  
IN DAMITTA COTTON FACTORY BEGAN WEEKEND OF MARCH 27  
WHEN NEW SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCED THAT "BONUS" OF 18 DAYS  
WOULD BE CUT TO 9. WORKERS DECIDED STAGE SIT IN.  
APPARENTLY SOME UNRULINESS ENSUED SINCE SECURITY  
AUTHORITIES DECIDED THERE WAS DANGER THAT MACHINERY  
WOULD BE DAMAGED. SECURITY FORCES THEREFORE STORMED  
BUILDING AND EVICTED STRIKERS, WHO THEN BEGAN MARCH  
THROUGH STREETS OF DAMIETTA. MARCH WAS NOT  
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PARTICULARLY VIOLENT AND DEMONSTRATORS FINALLY BROKE

UP AND WENT HOME SAME DAY.

2. FIRST UNDERSECRETARY MINISTRY INTERIOR/DIRECTOR  
GENERAL PUBLIC SECURITY GENERAL MUSTAFA AL-SHAYKH  
(WHO IS CHIEF MININT TROUBLESHOOTER) TOLD POLCOUNS  
APRIL 6, IN RESPONSE TO QUERY IF FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS  
REPORTS OF LABOR DISTURGANCE IN DAMIETTA WERE ACCURATE,  
THAT DISTURBANCE HAD BEEN INSTIGATD BY THREE OR FOUR  
"COMMUNIST AGITATORS", WHO HAD PLAYED ON WORKER DISCON-  
TENT OVER WAGES. AL-SHAYKH SAID HE HAD SPENT SIX DAYS  
IN DAMIETTA TO CALM THE SITUATION AND HAD DEALT WITH  
DEOMONSTATORS "VERY SEVERELY". IN ADDITION, TO  
AGITATORS HE HAD PUT 115 WORKERS IN PRISON AND  
THEY ARE STILL THERE, AL-SHAYKH SAID THERE HAD NOT  
RPT NOT BEEN ANY RECENT DISTURBANCE IN MAHALLA AL-KUBRA  
(DUTCH AMB HAD CLAIMED TO US THAT MININT SOURCE HAD  
"CONFIRMED " TROUBLE IN MAHALLA). HE DID NOT RULE OUT  
OTHER SUCH ISOLATED DISTURBANCES IN FACTORIES BECAUSE  
"ALL FACTORIES HAVE SOME AGITATORS IN THEM". HE SAID  
GOE WILL DEAL RAPIDLY AND SEVERELY WITH ANY SUCH  
DISTURBANCES.

3. COMMENT: FACT THAT AL-SHAYKH SPENT SIX DAYS IN  
DAMIETTA ATTESTS TO SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOE VIEWED  
THIS DISTURBANCE AND ITS DETERMINATION NOT TO ALLOW  
IT TO SPREAD. AL-SHAYKH IS LEAVING NEXT WEEK TO ATTEND  
FOURTH CONFERENCE OF ARAB POLICE DIRECTORS IN  
BAGHDAD WHICH SUGGESTS THAT INTERNAL SITUATION IS  
FOR TIME BEING WELL UNDER CONTROL.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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